

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 4, 6-9, 12 and 16 are amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully solicited.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(ii)).

Respectfully submitted,

  
James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Thomas J. Pardini  
Registration No. 30,411

JAO:TJP/cmm

Attachment:  
Appendix

Date: April 3, 2001

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE  
AUTHORIZATION**  
Please grant any extension  
necessary for entry;  
Charge any fee due to our  
Deposit Account No. 15-0461